

Paul Green Foundation



NEWS – April 2011



“Exploration” to Reopen Paul Green’s *The Cross and Sword*

Last month, we had a call from former director, **Paul Williamson** of *The Cross and Sword* in St. Augustine, Florida - he is now the Public Affairs Director for the city. He asked if we might be interested in getting Paul Green’s outdoor drama up again for the city’s 450 anniversary. We emailed him back that we would be *very* interested! At that time I didn’t realize I’d be driving down I-95 on my way to south Florida for spring break. We stayed the night in St. Augustine so I could meet with Paul.

Although still in the preliminary discussions, a group is exploring myriad ideas for the celebration which will run between **2013- 2015**: 500th Anniversary of the 1513 founding of Florida, and the 450th Anniversary of the 1565 founding of St. Augustine. Paul Green wrote *The Cross and Sword* in 1965 for St. Augustine’s 400th anniversary.

A group, **450 Corps**, has formed, and at one of their meetings it was suggested that **Florida’s Official State Play, *The Cross and Sword*** should be part of the commemoration of the founding and history of St. Augustine, our Nation’s oldest continuously occupied European settlement.

Meanwhile, the State of Florida is getting revved up for its **Quincentenary** by celebrating the time when east coast of Florida from Puerto Rico and gave the new land its name, *La Florida*.



I met with Paul Williamson for an hour or so and he reminded me of some of the issues that closed the play and told me new things: the drama closed in 1996 and the production company disbanded the next year. The theatre, that Paul assisted in designing and building, was bulldozed and in its place, on the 16-acres, now owned by St. John’s County, is a new amphitheatre that is partly covered. If we’re able to bring the play back, there is a group that would be interested in working on it – the Lime Light Players. The theatre is not a thrust stage so removable sections might need to be added to tell Paul’s story. I suggested we might want to do some rewriting, as we remember from before that the local Indians were not pleased with the way they were depicted. I’ll keep you posted!



The House of Connelly Film *Carolina* featured at UNC

The Center for the Study of the American South, at UNC Chapel Hill, has enthusiastically embraced the idea of featuring Paul Green’s story with the showing, in a regular uptown movie theatre, of the 1934 film (*Carolina*) as part of a larger focus on the serious issues of the story, utilizing panel discussions and student involvement, hopefully in classroom settings. To be able to work in their schedule, it was necessary to get permission to keep the film for a longer period – now due back in Rochester, NY, by November 31, 2011.

Dr. Margaret Bauer, who initiated this project, is showing the film to her students at ECU. She will also be part of the programs wherever the film is shown around the state. **Harnett County** is definitely on the list of showings.

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